



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

Board Minutes
July 22, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Rev. Gerald Bell, Joelee Baker Bey, Suzanne Bruce, Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Betty Greene, George Greenidge, Joanne Hilferty, Frederick Umeh, Thomas Yee, Juanita Wade

Members Absent: Mike Foley, Robert Harrington, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Valarie Pruitt, John Wagner.

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Sherry O'Brien, Inez Foster

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes, Dave Bassett, Michelle Trousil

Guests: Gloribell Mota, Maryellen McCormack Task Force, Nathan Pham, State Senator Hart's office

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept minutes of the June 24, 2003 Boston Connects, Inc. Board meeting.

By: Ms. Flashner

Second: Mr. Glavin

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Vance entertained the following:

Motion: Not to have a Board of Directors meeting in August 2003

By: Mrs. Green

Second: Ms. Wade

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion : Carried

Mr. Vance reminded all committee members that there are only three meetings left this year and that all business should be wrapped up by December 2003. Mr. Vance stated that the Executive Committee had met during the month and in the Board packages, are all the Board votes that were presented to that Committee.

Mr. Vance formally introduced and welcomed Ms. Suezanne Bruce as a representative for District #11 (replacing Pat Riddick). Ms. Bruce gave a brief bio of herself. Mr. Vance also stated that Mr. Robert Harrington, representing District #4 had only attended the Annual Meeting and pursuant to the by-laws a Board member is automatically removed from the Board if they miss five (5) meetings. A registered letter had been sent to Mr. Harrington. Presently, there are two additional Board vacancy which he hopes will be filled by September. Mr. Vance asked Ms.



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Wade to coordinate the process in regards to the terms of office of appointed Board members and the appointment of new members which should mirror that of the elected Board members.

Mr. Vance asked the Board to familiarize themselves with the BCI audit report that was mailed to them previously. A meeting will be set up to review and discuss it. Mr. Vance discussed disclosure of interest as it related to Board Members role in discussion of spending priorities and voting. This especially affected those Board members who worked for community based organizations which provide the services which BCI plans to invest in. As an example, there were a number of Board votes in the package which were to be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. By general consensus the Board agreed that all members were eligible to vote since this was not a vote for expenditure to a specific agency with which a Board member was affiliated. He asked that Ms. Wade, Ms. Hilferty and Sen. Wilkerson conclude their work on the update of the policy.

Finally, Mr. Vance thanked committee chairs and members for doing a great job and encouraged all board members to join a committee and take an active role in decision making.

3. Executive Directors Report:

Ms. Araujo did not distribute a Program update form since the enrollment numbers had not changed much since the last Board meeting given the summer lull. Ms. Araujo mentioned that staff was working on updating PERMS and preparing the Annual Report. This will be distributed to Board members for their review and comments. Staff was also working on coordinating and doing outreach on the upcoming elections which will occur on November 1. The next newsletter will be available in August. EZInfo is up and running and contains information on both community based organizations and businesses in the Zone. Ms. Araujo encouraged Board members to visit the site. In additions staff is working on coordinating another tax incentive conference, possibly in September or October.

A request was made by the Board for an update by the City on the Department of Public Health moving into Dudley Square. At the last Board meeting Sen. Wilkerson had stated that there would be more information available this month. Ms. Golar Richie reported that conversations were still occurring and that Governor Romney would be speaking on July 24th in Dudley Square and encouraged as many as possible to attend. Ms. Araujo said she would attend and also would make inquiries as to what is happening with the DPH. Additionally, other Board members, agreed to inquire about the DPH status and be in touch with Ms. Araujo.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Capacity Building

Mr. Baker-Bey reported on the success of the Grant Writing course that ran for seven weeks beginning in June. He reported that about 20 participants attended the course and that another session will be offered in September. Three faith-based programs attended the last session with further outreach to occur to faith based organizations for the next session.

B. Ex-Offender Initiative

Ms. Araujo reported that Ms. Richards is on board as a consultant and that one meeting had already occurred. The committee included representation from community and faith based organizations, advocates, ex-offenders and law enforcement. Discussion had centered on the planning for the Summit in October and covered topics such as keynote speaker, format, workshops and the Action Plan. Another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 29th, and all Board members are welcome.



C. Health and Well Being

Ms. Coney, Chair was unable to attend the Committee meeting. Thus, Ms. Wade who was present reported on the Committee meeting where discussion centered on how to implement the Family Opportunity Center (FOC) concept given the reduced EZ funding. The concept of the FOC was to provide one stop service to Zone residents. Case management would be used to link Zone residents to the services that they may need. This proposal is for \$1,100,000 for two years of service. Four networks would be funded in this proposal to serve the different areas of the Zone. \$40,000 is proposed to provide a technological link between the FOC networks to enable them to more efficiently work with clients and to collect data. There was also some discussion about seeking matching funds from other organizations. Whether this RFP should be restricted to only EZ CBO's was discussed because areas such as South Boston have several CBO's that border the EZ but serve a majority of EZ residents.

Motion: Invest a total of \$1,100,000 in Goal B1 to establish a Family Opportunity Center network in a two year contract. Staff is authorized to develop and issue an RFP for organizations in or in proximity of the Zone which can provide a full array of services in support of the health and well being of Zone residents. \$40,000 would be available to support the establishment of a network. Expenditures would include assistance with technology and outreach.

Funding of \$68,363 for this initiative is proposed to come from the Flexible Program funds category of the budget.

By:	Mr. Baker Bey	Second:	Mrs. Green	
Recused:	0	Abstained:	0	Opposed: 0

Motion : Carried

D. Education and Job Readiness

Brother Kinney opened by discussing the need for leveraging funds, and working closer with other BCI committees, CBO's and economy experts. He stated that the Committee took a detailed look at the growth sectors of the economy, outcomes from past EZ spending and looked to provide an array of services for Zone residents. Bro. Kinney turned the discussion of the proposed votes to Ms. Araujo. Ms. Araujo discussed the votes as the provision of a continuum of services to Zone residents. Contracts with successful bidders would be for two years. RFPs would be issued by the 24th with proposals for funding available for Board review and vote in September.

Motion : Invest a total of \$134,000 of Empowerment Zone funds in Goal C1 to provide English for Employment services to Zone residents with limited English skills. BCI staff will develop and issue a Request for Proposals to provide the services.

By:	Ms. Golar-Richie	Second:	Mr. Baker Bey	
Recused:	0	Abstained:	0	Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion: Invest a total of \$300,000 of Empowerment Zone funding in Goal C1, in two year contracts, to increase the number of GED seats with life skills available to Zone residents. \$150,000 would be available to Zone residents in the community and \$150,000 to support Zone residents currently in the Suffolk County House of Corrections. BCI staff will develop and issue a RFP for GED services with life skills.



By: Mrs. Greene
Recused: 0

Second: Rev. Bell
Abstained: 0
Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion: Invest a total of \$300,000 of Empowerment Zone funds in Goal C5, in two year contracts, to provide skills training for Zone residents with work readiness and life skills. BCI staff will develop and issue a Request for Proposals to provide these services.

Motion: Funding of \$550,000 in Training Vouchers. Direct BCI staff to prepare and issue procurement guidelines in conformance with the procedural guidelines.

By: Mr. Cooper
Recused: 0

Second: Rev. Bell
Abstained: 0
Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Meeting adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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